1. (Previously amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:3.

2. (Previously amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said nucleic acid molecule has a nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1.

3. (Original) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said nucleic acid is deoxyribonucleic acid.

4. (Original) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 3 wherein said deoxyribonucleic acid is cDNA.

5. (Original) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said nucleic acid is ribonucleic acid.

6. (Original) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 5 wherein said ribonucleic acid is mRNA.

7. (Original) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein said nucleic acid encodes a transcriptional activity. he expression vector is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid and a virus.

8-12 (Canceled)

13. (Original) A method of decreasing expression of a transcriptional activator protein in a host cell, said method comprising introducing the oligonucleotide of claim 8 into the cell, wherein said oligonucleotide blocks translation of said mRNA so as to decrease expression of said transcriptional activator protein in said host cell.

14. (Original) A cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

Received from < 7166265384 > at 9/25/03 1:52:45 PM [Eastern Daylight Time]

15. (Original) An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

16. (Original) The expression vector of claim 15 wherein said expression vector is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid and a virus.

17. (Original) A cell comprising the expression vector of claim 15.

18. (Withdrawn) A method of increasing expression of transcriptional activator protein in a host cell, said method comprising:

introducing the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 into the cell; and

allowing said cell to express said nucleic acid molecule resulting in the production of transcriptional activator protein in said cell.

19. (Withdrawn) A method of screening a substance for the ability of the substance to modify transcriptional activator protein function, said method comprising:

introducing the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 into a host cell;

expressing said transcriptional activator protein encoded by said nucleic acid molecule in the host cell;

exposing the cell to a substance; and

evaluating the exposed cell to determine if the substance modifies the function of the transcriptional activator protein.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19 wherein said evaluation comprises monitoring the expression of transcriptional activator protein.

21. (Withdrawn) A method of obtaining DNA encoding a transcriptional activator protein, said method comprising:

selecting a DNA molecule encoding a transcriptional

Received from < 7166265384 > at 9/25/03 1:52:45 PM [Eastern Daylight Time]

activator protein, said DNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1;

designing an oligonucleotide probe for a transcriptional activator protein based on the nucleotide sequence of the selected DNA molecule;

probing a genomic or cDNA library of an organism with the oligonucleotide probe; and

obtaining clones from said library that are recognized by said oligonucleotide probe, so as to obtain DNA encoding a transcriptional activator protein.

22. (Withdrawn) A method of obtaining DNA encoding a transcriptional activator protein, said method comprising:

selecting a DNA molecule encoding a transcriptional activator protein, said DNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1;

designing degenerate oligonucleotide primers based on the nucleotide sequence of the selected DNA molecule; and

utilizing said oligonucleotide primers in a polymerase chain reaction on a DNA sample to identify homologous DNA encoding a transcriptional activator protein in said sample.

23. (Original) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a transcriptional activator protein, said nucleic acid molecule encoding a first amino acid sequence having at least 90% amino acid identity to a second amino acid sequence, said second amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:3.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Withdrawn) A method of detecting presence of a transcriptional activator protein in a sample, said method comprising:

contacting a sample with the DNA oligomer of claim 24, wherein said DNA oligomer hybridizes to any of said transcriptional activator protein present in said sample, forming a complex therewith; and

Received from < 7166265384 > at 9/25/03 1:52:45 PM [Eastern Daylight Time]

detecting said complex, thereby detecting presence of a transcriptional activator protein in said sample.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25 wherein said DNA oligomer is labeled with a detectable marker.

27. (Withdrawn) An isolated protein, wherein said protein is encoded by a nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1.

28. (Withdrawn) The protein of claim 27 wherein said protein has transcriptional activator activity.

29. (Withdrawn) The protein of claim 27 wherein said protein is encoded by an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:3.

30. (Withdrawn) An isolated protein encoded by a first amino acid sequence having at least 90% amino acid identity to a second amino acid sequence, said second amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:3.

31. (Withdrawn) An antibody or fragment thereof specific for the protein of claim 30.

32. (Withdrawn) The antibody of claim 31 wherein said antibody comprises a monoclonal antibody.

33. (Withdrawn) The antibody of claim 31 wherein said antibody comprises a polyclonal antibody.

34. (Withdrawn) A method of detecting presence of a transcriptional activator protein in a sample, said method comprising:

contacting a sample with the antibody or fragment thereof of

Received from < 7166265384 > at 9/25/03 1:52:45 PM [Eastern Daylight Time]

claim 31, wherein said antibody or fragment thereof binds to any of said transcriptional activator protein present in said sample, forming a complex therewith; and

detecting said complex, thereby detecting presence of a transcriptional activator protein in said sample.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 34 wherein said antibody or fragment thereof is labeled with a detectable marker.

36. (Withdrawn) A method of producing an antibody specific for a transcriptional activator protein in a host, the method comprising:

selecting the isolated transcriptional activator protein of claim 27 or an antigenic portion thereof; and

introducing the selected transcriptional activator protein or antigenic portion thereof into a host to induce production of an antibody specific for transcriptional activator protein in the host.

Received from < 7166265384 > at 9/25/03 1:52:45 PM [Eastern Daylight Time]